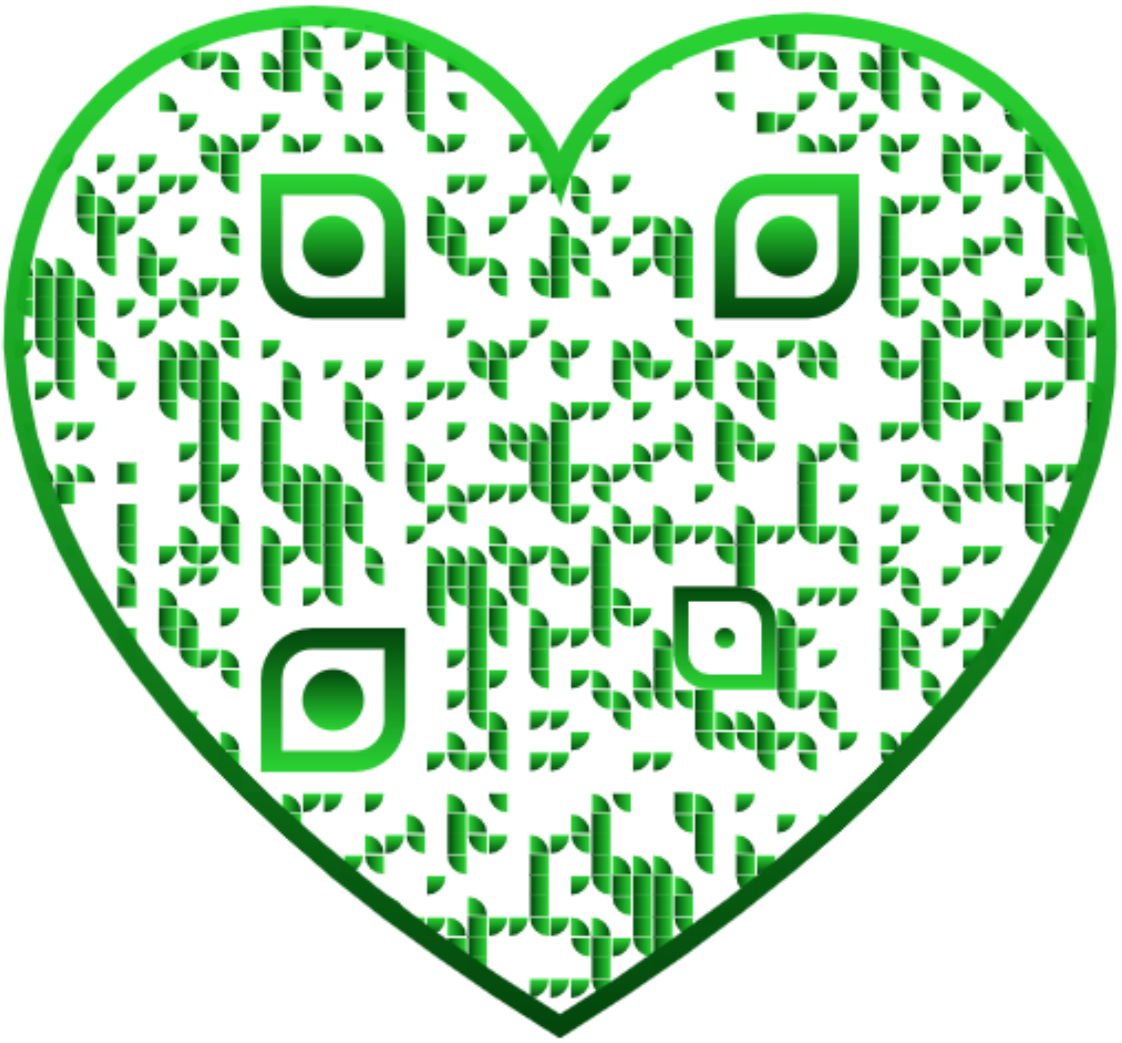
20 JANUARY 2017 / FREE EVERY FRIDAY

NME

MUSIC
FILM
STYLE

RUN THE JEWELS

Diamond geezers



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NME

Hello...

IF YOU'D TOLD ME years ago that a member of the *Home Alone 2* cast would end up being American President, I would have kissed you, hugged you, high-fived you, bought a massive calendar, then run home to start marking off the days off until the inauguration of the rightful leader of the free world, President Macaulay Culkin.

That someone with only a small cameo in the film – some oddball called Donald Trump – got the gig ahead of Mac just shows you what a weird and f**ked-up world we live in right now.

By the time you read this, Trump will be in the White House. Are we all doomed? Or do we just need to stop p**sing and moaning and get on with it? In this week's issue we assess the likelihood of Trumpageddon, while Russell Howard is here to galvanise you and help you think positive thoughts. Add to that the most exciting and relevant hip-hop act on the planet right now – Run The Jewels – taking on Trump and the state of America in this week's cover story and you've got a politically charged issue to get your teeth into this week, plus loads of excellent new music to get your ears round as you do it. Enjoy.

MIKE WILLIAMS
Editor-in-Chief
@itsmikelike

Georgie: "I failed a history exam because I played four sets in the pub the night before" p30

COVER STORY

14
Run The Jewels
The firebrand rap duo are here to save the day with political barbs and fart gags

FEATURES

20
Loyle Carner
South London rapper whose sensitive rhymes will have you blubbing in no time

22
Donald Trump
What's the worst that could happen? An investigation...

SECTIONS

AGENDA 5

RADAR 23

live 33

REGULARS

11 On The Record 12 Things We Like
13 What's On Your Headphones? 30 Under The Radar
38 Soundtrack Of My Life

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COVER PHOTO: MATT SALACUSE. CONTENTS PHOTO: PHIL SMITHIES

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AGENDA

WHAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT THIS WEEK

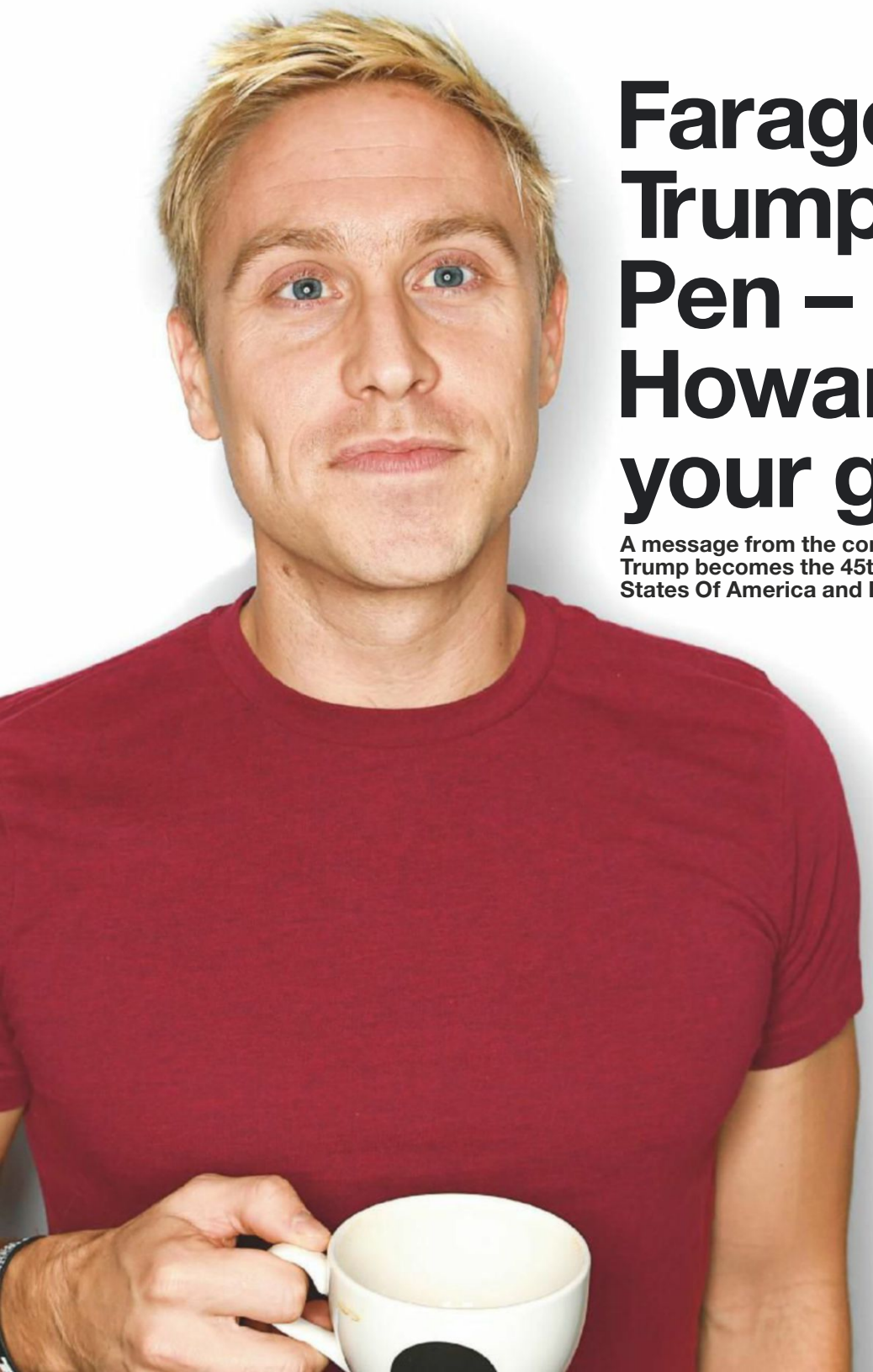

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Farage, Trump, Le Pen – Russell Howard hates your guts

A message from the comedian, in the week Donald Trump becomes the 45th president of the United States Of America and Brexit looks kinda nightmarish

"I'VE BEEN TRAVELLING around England recently and I don't think we've ever been more divided and more gloomy. I find it so frustrating because it's only right-wing f**k-knuckles that grab the public's attention – it's only Farage or Trump or Le Pen or Wilders from Holland and you think, 'Where are our Gandhis? Where are our Martin Luther Kings?' It's so frustrating. There was an article the other day where Farage said he was going to America to apologise to Trump on behalf of the things we said about him during the election. Nobody – nobody – wants that.

"I feel like at the minute I very much want to appeal to large groups of people and remind us how much we love each other and how lucky we are that we're alive. We shouldn't be listening to this f**king spurious rhetoric designed to turn us against each other."

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VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

Time to vote!

MØ's doing it, and you should do it too

BEST INTERNATIONAL MALE ARTIST
Supported by VO5
"Chance The Rapper is the new blood. I love that his album feels so personal and raw, but at the same time it's really well done. The sound is next level, but not too much."

CHANCE THE RAPPER

THE NOMINATIONS

BEST BRITISH BAND
Supported by ZIG-ZAG
Wolf Alice
The 1975
Bastille
Years & Years
The Last Shadow Puppets
Biffy Clyro

BEST BRITISH FEMALE ARTIST
Dua Lipa
Adele
Charli XCX
M.I.A.
Kate Tempest
PJ Harvey

BEST BRITISH MALE ARTIST
Supported by PILOT
Skepta
Zayn Malik
Kano
Jamie T
Michael Kiwanuka
Richard Ashcroft

BEST INTERNATIONAL BAND
Supported by Austin
Tame Impala
Kings Of Leon
Green Day
Metallica
A Tribe Called Quest
Tegan And Sara

BEST INTERNATIONAL FEMALE ARTIST
Supported by VO5
Sia
Lady Gaga
Beyoncé
Solange
Christine & The Queens
Tove Lo

BEST FESTIVAL
Glastonbury
Reading & Leeds
Download
Isle Of Wight
Primavera
V Festival

BEST INTERNATIONAL MALE ARTIST
Supported by VO5
Kanye West
Drake
The Weeknd
Frank Ocean
Kendrick Lamar
Chance The Rapper

BEST NEW ARTIST
Supported by TOPMAN
Blossoms
Zara Larsson
Sunflower Bean
Christine & The Queens
Dua Lipa
Anderson .Paak

BEST LIVE BAND
Supported by Nikon
Bastille
Slaves
The 1975
Bring Me The Horizon
Christine & The Queens
Wolf Alice

BEST ALBUM
'The Life Of Pablo'
Kanye West
'Konnichiwa'
Skepta
'I Like It When You Sleep, For You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It'
The 1975
'A Moon Shaped Pool'
Radiohead
'Wild World'
Bastille
'Lemonade'
Beyoncé

How do I buy tickets to the VO5 NME Awards 2017 on Feb 15?

Go here: NME.com/tickets. Tickets are on sale now, from £29.99

FOR THE FULL LIST OF NOMINATIONS GO TO NME.COM.AWARDS

GOOD WEEK

ED SHEERAN
Broke records by entering the charts at Numbers 1 and 2 with 'Shape Of You' and 'Castles In The Sky'.

ST VINCENT
Unveiled the terrifying trailer for her film directorial debut *The Birthday Party*, part of horror anthology *XX*.

LAURA MVULA
Felt "genuinely hurt" by her lack of a BRITs nomination and wondered, "Maybe if I wrote better music?"

SOCIAL MEDIA
Nine Inch Nails' Trent Reznor called Facebook "toxic". Yes, he did soundtrack *The Social Network*.

BAD WEEK

PHOTOS: ALEXANDRA GA. JESS BAUMUNG. REX FEATURES

Return to Twin Peaks

DAVID LYNCH

Last week, the world was treated to a May 21 premiere date for the return of *Twin Peaks*. Pour yourself a cup of damn fine coffee and enjoy everything we know about it so far

THE WAIT IS NEARLY OVER
After a painful 25-year wait, there'll be a two-hour, two-episode premiere on May 21, with episodes three and four being made available online immediately afterwards.

AGENT COOPER IS BACK
A tantalising new trailer shows Kyle MacLachlan returning as FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper. YouTube it now for a taste of that spooky, cinematic soundscape as he faces the sign: 'Welcome To Twin Peaks: Population 51,201'

KYLE MACLACHLAN AS SPECIAL AGENT COOPER

HE'S NOT ALONE
He'll be joining fellow original cast members including James Marshall, Sherilyn Fenn, Sheryl Lee, David Duchovny and Ray Wise.

THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF NEW FACES AND CAMEOS...
Amanda Seyfried, Ashley Judd, Michael Cera, Jessica Szohr, Jane Levy, Richard Chamberlain, Naomi Watts, Tom Sizemore, Laura Dern, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Robert Knepper, Balthazar Getty and many more. Around 217 actors have been reported to appear across the series.

...INCLUDING SOME OF YOUR MUSIC HEROES
Nine Inch Nails mainman Trent Reznor has shot scenes, as have indie crooner Sky Ferreira and guitar hero Eddie Vedder. Sharon Van Etten is also named on the cast list. Maybe they can have an input on the soundtrack too?

BUT NOT DAVID BOWIE
Bowie appeared as Agent Phillip Jeffries in the show's 1992 spin-off film *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me*. Actor Harry Goaz said the Thin White Duke was set to reprise his role, but sadly died before filming began.

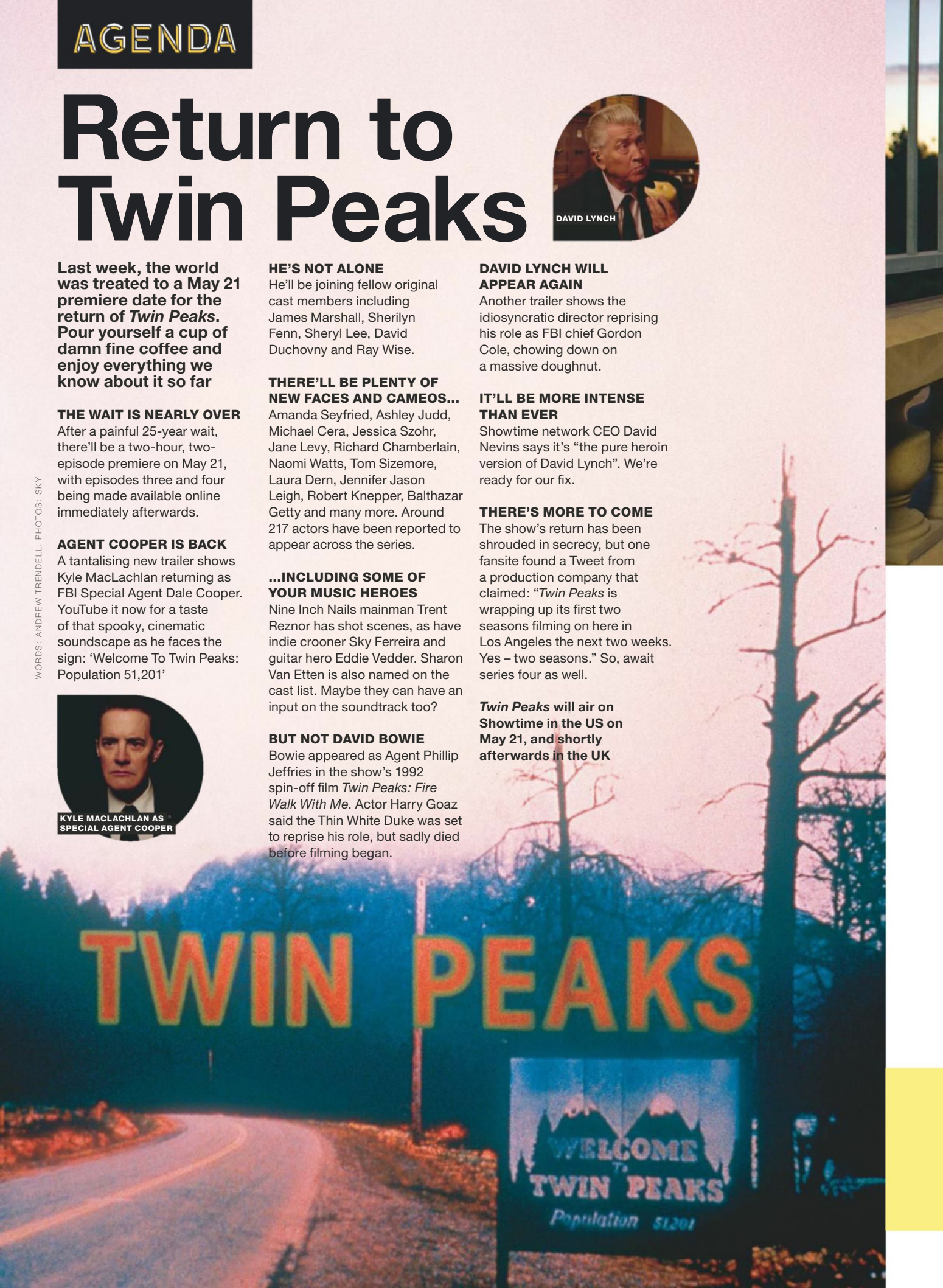
DAVID LYNCH WILL APPEAR AGAIN
Another trailer shows the idiosyncratic director reprising his role as FBI chief Gordon Cole, chowing down on a massive doughnut.

IT'LL BE MORE INTENSE THAN EVER
Showtime network CEO David Nevins says it's "the pure heroin version of David Lynch". We're ready for our fix.

THERE'S MORE TO COME
The show's return has been shrouded in secrecy, but one fansite found a Tweet from a production company that claimed: "*Twin Peaks* is wrapping up its first two seasons filming on here in Los Angeles the next two weeks. Yes – two seasons." So, await series four as well.

***Twin Peaks* will air on Showtime in the US on May 21, and shortly afterwards in the UK**

WORDS: ANDREW TRENDELL. PHOTOS: SKY



Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone

Going gaga for La La

MARIUS DE VRIES

Marius De Vries, musical director of *La La Land*, on why everyone's gone quite so bonkers for the jazz musical

Did you know you were making an instant classic?
"It's caught a spirit that's to do with magic, dreaming and romance. But you never really know how people will respond until after. If you're not slightly scared when making something it means you're not taking enough risks, and if you're not taking enough risks then you're not making something that's special."

Did Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone take to their roles quickly?
"They're both very bright and have very engaged creative minds. I remember late one night sitting in the studio with Ryan after we'd done another vocal session. We were saying how tired we were and how exhausting the process was, and he just looked at me and said: 'Yeah but we're trying to create magic and that's not easy.'"

Who in modern music embodies that jazz spirit?
"In LA there's a thriving alt-jazz community involving Kamasi Washington and Flying Lotus. There's tons of creative jazz around and what's interesting is how it's reaching out to other genres and cross-fertilising, which speaks to one of the central themes of *La La Land* – the creative tension between John Legend's character and Ryan Gosling's character about jazz's purity, but also how it needs to adapt. I don't think that's a question with a clear sense of right and wrong to us."

There's been some criticism of the film for a lack of diversity. How do you respond to that?
"It's a discussion rather than an accusation. There's always a lot of discussion around issues like this and for sure, in terms of casting and the philosophy of how we put it together, the approach was always thoroughly inclusive. I don't see the issue. We have John Legend playing a principal cast member and crucially involved in that discussion and I don't think it's a discussion where there's a right and a wrong answer."

***La La Land* is in cinemas now**

INTERVIEW: TOM SMITH. MINI INTERVIEW: CHARLOTTE GUNN.
PHOTOS: LIONSGATE, DEAN CHALKLEY, REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES

Dan Smith

Bastille frontman on his new hot sauce

Why have you made a new hot sauce, Dan?
"I'm obsessed with hot sauces and spicy food. We made a 'Bad Blood' hot sauce last time, so this one is the inevitable sequel. I love the cheesy artwork and terrible puns from the niche world of hot sauces, and I want to make merch that's more interesting than your standard stick-your-album-cover-on-a-T-shirt."

What can you do with Wild World X-Tra Hot Chipotle Sauce?
"Defrost your icy windscreen in the winter. Rub it on your lover."

What's the spiciest thing you've ever eaten?
"I had a ghost chili hot sauce that was way too much for me. Woody [Chris Wood, drummer] gave it to me and it had a horrible name like Ass Exploder or something. Wasn't fun."

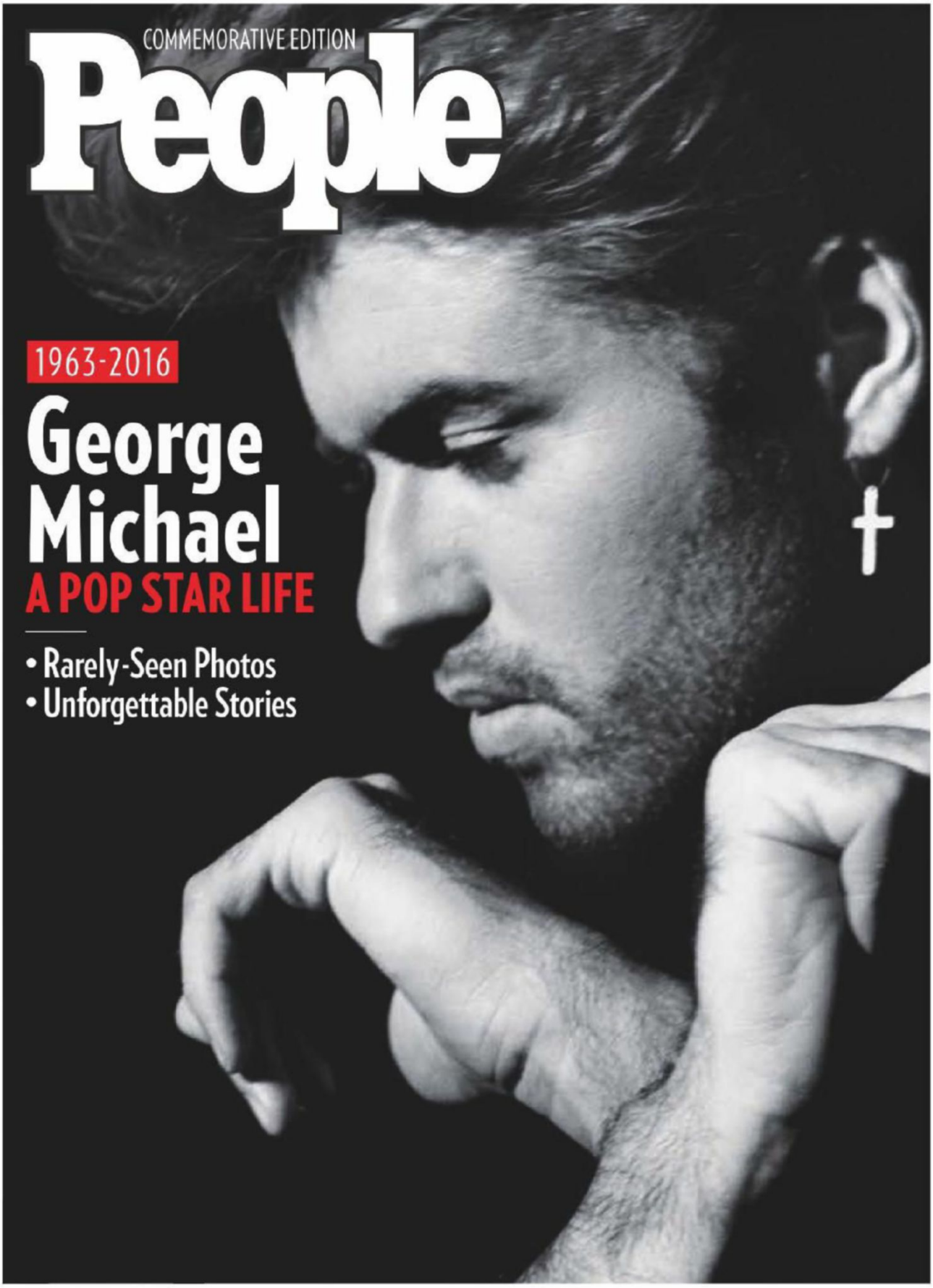
Last W33K IN NUMBERS

29
On turning 29, Skrillex reunited with old band From First To Last to drop new track 'Make War'.

17
Arrests made in connection with the October robbery of Kim Kardashian.

£825m
Cost of an art museum that *Star Wars* creator George Lucas is opening. Well, he needs a hobby.

3
Seconds Paul Weller was on screen as a dead Viking during his cameo in the *Sherlock* finale.



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ON THE RECORD

BIG OPINIONS. NO FILTER.

THIS WEEK

It's time to march against Trump, the poster boy for misogyny

Protests are happening across the world on January 21

ON JANUARY 21, THE DAY after Donald Trump officially takes up the post of p***y-grabbing President of the United States of America and begins systematically crushing the hopes and dreams of untold numbers of people, hundreds of thousands of women – and men, too – are expected to attend the first ever Women's March on Washington. There'll be similar protests across the world, including in the UK.

The protest, which recalls the huge anti-Vietnam War demonstrations that took place in the shadow of the White House in the 1960s, was born from social media outrage at November's shock US election result, in which Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton lost out to a reality television star and chump of a businessman with no political experience. A poster boy for general b*llendery, misogyny and all the worst bits of capitalism, Trump's fondness for feminism and the rights of people who aren't quite so privileged as him is essentially non-existent. It might not be possible to give him a taste of his own medicine and fire his arse *Apprentice*-style, but it *is* possible to make a really, really big noise about how troubling his sinister rise to power is.

Rather than just pushing one agenda, the Women's March is about standing up for a whole bunch of issues that Trump doesn't seem to think matter – abortion rights, the environment, human rights, gun legislation, healthcare, racial equality, LBGTQ rights, a minimum wage, police accountability and generally being a decent human being. Planned Parenthood and Amnesty International are just two of the hundreds of charities and initiatives taking part. Madonna's shown her support for the protest in typical Madonna style – by sharing a picture of an unknown model's pubes – while Katy Perry and Cher have also pledged their involvement.

"Trump's fondness for feminism is non-existent"

Donald's d**k moves are likely to affect more than just those living in America. In charge of one of the most powerful countries there is, Trump's decisions will have an impact far beyond the 50 states he's in charge of. So as well as 300 other protests planned in the US on Saturday, 30 other countries will also be taking part and showing solidarity, with women across the world kicking up a fuss of monumental proportions. Of course, women's rights are human rights, so men are welcome on the protests. Greenpeace, Solidarity with Refugees, CND and Pride London are all backing the UK event. If you're not up to anything else this Saturday, go and be outraged at the Women's March on London – and do it loudly.

@leoniemaycooper

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

THINGS WE LIKE

THIS WEEK'S OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Bag it
A bright pink paint-splashed backpack for all your carrying-stuff needs.
£30 *justhype.co.uk*

Chocolate orange
Magic Rock's Bearded Lady is a Grand Marnier chocolate orange stout. Blimey.
£5.39 *alesbymail.co.uk*

Go figure
This Madvillain figure – and 7" 'Avalanche' record – is one for true hip-hop heads.
£70 *rappcats.com*

Sports chic
Beyoncé's second season of Ivy Park workout wear is out now.
£16 *topshop.com*

Badge of honour
This neon enamel pin badge offers some good/bad/interesting advice.
£7 *blackheartcreatives.com*

Back in the saddle
Pimp your (bike) ride with Brooks' 150th anniversary copper-framed saddle.
£130 *brooksengland.com*

Kiss off
MAC's latest celeb collab is with Caitlyn Jenner and features this fierce red lippy.
£16.50 *maccosmetics.co.uk*

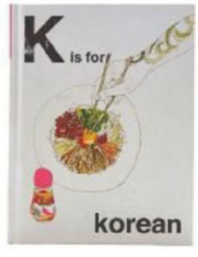
Trunk sale
High-end men's pants don't come classier than Swedish brand CDLP's three-pack.
£80 *cdlp.com*

A rare treat
J Dilla's early work is collected on double cassette 'Jaydeelicious 95-98'.
£18.25 *juno.co.uk*

Postcards from the edge
25 shots of David Bowie by former *NME* snapper Kevin Cummins in postcard form.
£25 *politecards.com*

Must have
Go for a mod look in a dashing mustard shade with this check shirt.
£70 *prettygreen.com*

Glassy eyed
With its sleek design, Ray-Ban's latest is called The General and is the boss of us.
£143 *ray-ban.com*



Chef's table
Whip up a delicious Korean-inspired meal from this tasty cookbook.
£12 *urbanoutfitters.com*

Loved up
Show some self-love pride with this neat DIY tee.
£28 *kingsophiesworld.co.uk*

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What's on your Headphones?

THIS WEEK

Tynemouth

PHOTOS: DAVID WALA

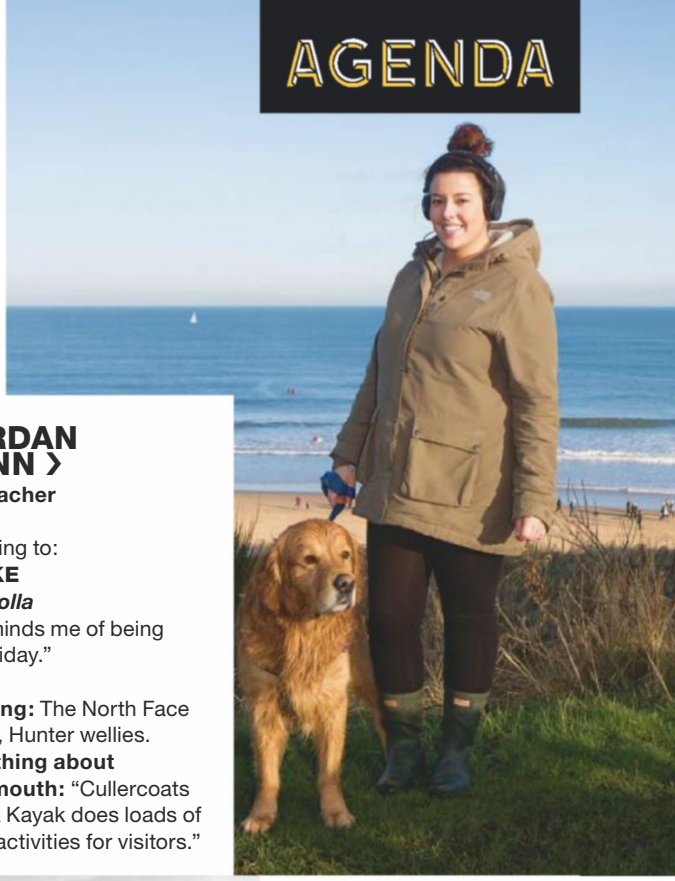
RICHARD BEGG ›

30, customer adviser

Listening to:
THE 1975
She's American
"They're one of my favourite bands."

Wearing: Barbour jacket, Topman shirt, jeans and boots.
Best thing about Tynemouth: "Barca ArtBar. You can buy pictures when you're on a night out."

"You can buy art on a night out"



JORDAN DUNN ›

25, teacher

Listening to:
DRAKE
Controlla
"It reminds me of being on holiday."

Wearing: The North Face jacket, Hunter wellies.
Best thing about Tynemouth: "Cullercoats Bike & Kayak does loads of great activities for visitors."

‹ JO CUNNINGHAM

27, teacher

Listening to:
TOM ODELL
Hold Me
"I like his older music more, before he started to sound too much like Coldplay."

Wearing: Longsands hat, Zara scarf, Next jacket, Topshop jeans.
Best thing about Tynemouth: "Surf Cafe – good food, coffee and music, too."

ADRIAN SMITH ›

26, photographer

Listening to:
TAME IMPALA
Let It Happen
"They were so good at Glastonbury last year."

Wearing: Barts hat, homemade scarf, Carhartt jacket, Adidas trainers.
Best thing about Tynemouth: "Riley's Fish Shack serves the best food in the area."

(L-r:) Killer Mike and El-P

THE HEROES WE NEED

PHOTOS BY MATT SALACUSE

Run The Jewels are the US hip-hop duo who mix humour with hard-hitting politics. On the eve of Trump's inauguration, they tell Kevin EG Perry why they think we're living in a parallel universe

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A weekend ticket can be bought in one full price transaction for £195 plus fees.

THIS WEEK, DONALD Trump will place one of his tiny hands on the Bible and his puckered lips will accept the US presidency: the first Twitter troll with a nuclear arsenal. Holed up at a secret location in Nashville, preparing for a tour that's due to come to the UK and Europe at the end of March, firebrand rap duo Run The Jewels are somehow managing to see the funny side.

"As a guy who grew up on dystopian science fiction you can't help but be morbidly amused," says El-P, looking for a chink of light in the darkness. "It's scary but hilarious, in a f**ked-up way. It's the folly of man. It's also incredibly dangerous and deadly. The stakes themselves make the gallows humour that much more potent. But that's me. If I had an executioner's gun to the back of my head and he farted, I'd laugh."

Beside him, his sparring partner Killer Mike leans in. "I've watched every inauguration since Reagan," he says, in that Deep South baritone. "But this is the first time the President is gonna be sitting there tweeting: 'I told y'all, fools.'"

At times like these, we could do with more artists willing to talk s**t to power. Run The Jewels are the heroes we need. After their explosive first album together in 2013 proved their old-school hip-hop credentials, 2014's follow-up 'Run The Jewels 2' amplified America's anger at widespread police brutality. Their new album 'RTJ3', released as a free download on Christmas Eve, is their best yet. It's at turns smart, laugh-out-loud funny, politically aware and ferociously angry. This magazine's review awarded it a full five stars, much to its creators' delight. "That was surprising and amazing. We're blown away by that," grins El-P, before Mike adds: "I sent that s**t to my children to let them know their dad is still cooler than them."

It's a record that's been percolating since the end of 2015, when El-P started working on beats with producers Wilder Zoby and Little Shalimar. Mike and El-P began recording vocals in earnest in February 2016, around the time the presidential primaries were kicking off across America. Mike became well known across the country as a vocal supporter of left-wing Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, who offered a radically more socialist vision of American politics but was narrowly beaten to his party's nomination by the more centrist Hillary Clinton. Run The Jewels took their frustration at the political process into the studio, where it surfaces on tracks like '2100' which opens with Mike rapping: "*How long before the hate that we hold leads us to another Holocaust?*"

Another new track, 'Thieves! (Screamed The Ghost)', returns to the band's anger at the failure to hold police officers accountable, particularly for the killing of black men such as Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in New York City, both of whom died in 2014. While the track is coruscating in its fury, the pair say they thought carefully about not making the song a call to arms. "I remember when we were doing 'Thieves', we went back and forth because it could have been an encouragement to incite violence," says Mike. "There were points last year when everyone was angry enough to do that, every American, and especially me. It took me and El going back and forth to decide what the true message was that we wanted to leave. My anger would say, 'I wanna see everyone who's ever hurt somebody shot and killed.' As a rap group, and as public figures, you have to realise that the gravity of your words can sometimes lead to that s**t for real, and that's not what we wanted to do."

"That's a reflection of our friendship too," adds El-P. "We know when we have to sit down and talk. With 'Thieves', we had to make sure that we knew what we wanted it to be, which was an anatomy of a situation and not an encouragement."

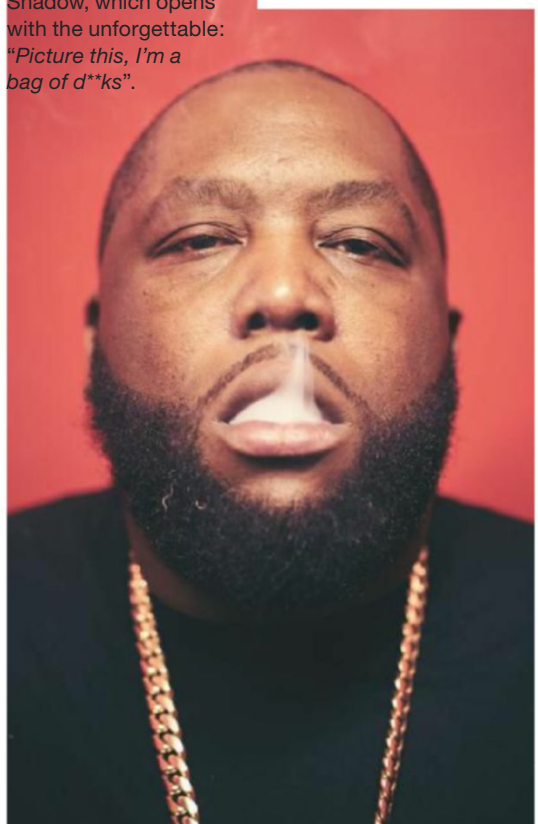
Run The Jewels' big hitters

Never checked out RTJ? Start with these three tracks

***'Close Your Eyes (And Count To F**k)'* (2014)**
Their first tune with Rage Against The Machine frontman Zack de la Rocha has become a signature anthem thanks to its "*Run them jewels fast*" hook.

***'Lie, Cheat, Steal'* (2014)**
After bragging about their own misdemeanours, Run The Jewels go on to meditate on the liars and thieves who really run the world.

***'Nobody Speak'* (2016)**
Run The Jewels are at their hilarious best on this collab with DJ Shadow, which opens with the unforgettable: "*Picture this, I'm a bag of d**ks*".



The tight friendship and symbiotic working relationship that's blossomed between El-P and Killer Mike is almost a surprise given they've only known each other for six years, but it's a combination that works so well it's now difficult to imagine them apart. "*We the new PB&J,*" as Mike puts it on 'Legend Has It'. They first met in 2011, each aged 35 with storied careers already behind them. New Yorker El-P, born Jaime Meline, had made his name with underground hip-hop crew Company Flow before co-founding indie label Definitive Jux. Mike, full name Michael Render, had come out of OutKast's scene in Atlanta, Georgia, making his debut on their 'Stankonia' track 'Snappin' & Trappin'' back in 2000. The duo first worked together when El-P produced Killer Mike's album 'R.A.P. Music', released in May 2012, but they quickly saw the potential in making their partnership permanent.

It's a friendship based on a shared affinity for old-school hip-hop and stoked by bales and bales of high-grade marijuana. ("Shouts out to Humboldt County, northern California!" says Mike. "The best weed in the world comes out of the Bay. I've also got to give Atlanta props for a strain called Gas – it's this OG kush that's strong as f**k.") Their shared sense of humour helps explain why it's not just politics that fills their records. There are also d**k jokes. Lots and lots of d**k jokes. "I'm not doing my job unless I can look over at Mike and he literally shakes his head in his hands and says, 'What the f**k did you just say?'" says El-P.

Mike cuts in: "When you're sitting at a table and you hear a guy say, 'I've got a unicorn horn for a c**k', to me that's when you walk out of the room like, yo, I got to step it up! The imagination it takes to come up with something like that! I still think of the moment he said that and chuckle."

That line appears on 'Legend Has It', but doesn't quite survive intact. In self-deprecating style, the final word is now replaced with El-P's girlfriend, musician and comedian Emily Panic, undermining his braggadocio by uttering a bored "Stop". Meanwhile, Mike more than holds his own in the d**k-bragging stakes, with lines like "*I refuse to play humble as though my d**k itty bitty*" on 'Panther Like A Panther'. All fun and games now, but El-P can't resist pointing out how some of those lines would play if Mike ever decided to try to follow his mate Bernie Sanders into office.

"I can't wait until you try to get into politics and they start reading out lines…" he teases. Mike immediately takes on the role of a shocked Fox News anchor: "HE ADVOCATES KIDNAPPING MOTHERS FROM JAZZERCISE!"

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

CABBAGE

RORY WYNNE

THU 16 MAR KEELE UNIVE[SOLD OUT] BALLROOM
FRI 17 MAR LIV[SOLD OUT] OLYMPIA
SAT 18 MAR BRIGHTON DOME
MON 20 MAR LINC[SOLD OUT] NE SHED
TUE 21 MAR EXETER LEMON GROVE
THU 23 MAR LONDON ROUNDHOUSE
FRI 24 MAR BRIS[SOLD OUT] ACADEMY

SAT 25 MAR CARDIFF[SOLD OUT] ED
MON 27 MAR NORWICH THE NICK RAYNS LCR UEA
WED 29 MAR BIRMINGHAM O2 ACADEMY
THU 30 MAR LEEDS C[SOLD OUT] EMY
FRI 31 MAR NEWCAS[SOLD OUT] ACADEMY
SAT 01 APR GLASGOW O2 ACADEMY

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AN S.J.M. CONCERTS & DF PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH 13 ARTISTS

PHOTO: JENN FIVE

VO5 Austin LIVE MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD TOPMAN Nikon ZIG-ZAG PILOT

"We do good by being idiots"

If the idea of mixing pugnacious social commentary with irreverent silliness seems odd, it makes perfect sense to Run The Jewels. "I've seen people question, 'How can you guys be funny, not-give-a-s**t, braggedy-brag rap, and then a few [songs] behind that have thoughts, concerns and social commentary?'" says Mike. "It amazes me, because I'm like, I thought that was the full human experience! If you hang out with your friends through the course of a day, you guys are going to laugh, talk s**t, get drunk, remember some s**t you didn't like, fight, make up, talk about how f**ked up politics is, get high… To me, our records are about the full human experience."

Sometimes their stoner jokes take on a life of their own. While drumming up Kickstarter support for 'Run The Jewels 2', El-P wrote that if anyone donated $40,000 he'd re-record the whole album using cat noises. The internet being what the internet is, that challenge was soon accepted. Rather than dismiss it as a joke, they decided to follow through when they realised they could donate the raised money to the families of Michael Brown and Eric Garner. Thus, 'Meow The Jewels' was born.

"It was just a joke I wrote while high," says El-P. "I almost shut it down, but then I realised we had an opportunity to do something for charity. We knew the record was f**king stupid, but it falls in line with the way we think, which is that we can do good by being idiots."

Having blown up to become two of rap's most potent voices from what started as an experiment, both Mike and El-P say they sometimes consider what their lives would have been like had they never met.

"That's what keeps you grateful," says Mike. "I'm thankful for the journey I've took. I'm thankful that El and I got hooked up, and thankful that we were smart enough to know that this was something that could be cool."

El-P, typically, has a more surreal take on it. A fan of conspiracy theories, back in 2015 he caused an internet storm when he tweeted about a mind-blowing idea concerning children's book characters the Berenstain Bears. Many people remember the name as 'Berenstein', leading to a hypothesis that two alternate parallel universes had merged. On 'Hey Kids (Bumaye)', El-P extends this idea, rapping that while in the original timeline he had "*no wins*", it's this new, darker reality that's allowed Run The Jewels to take over.

"I think it's very real," says El-P, seriously. "Maybe if me and Mike hadn't gotten together, everything would be a lot better for everyone else in this world. It makes no sense that we're blowing up. Me and Mike being successful is clear evidence that we're in a dark, alternate timeline that experienced some sort of schism along the way. Really, if everything was going cool, Hillary would probably be President and me and Mike would be out of work."

Mike, the ardent Bernie supporter, breaks into a cackle beside him. "I did not mention Hillary!" he laughs.

"Don't get that twisted as a Hillary endorsement," clarifies El-P. "I'm just saying that's probably what would have happened in the original timeline. Donald Trump would just be a f**king TV star. I'd like to take this moment to formally apologise for upsetting the space-time continuum. Instead, what you got is a world on the brink of crisis and two 41-year-old rappers at the top of their game. There's no f**king reason that this makes any sense."

Mike, more of a realist, thinks there's at least one reason Run The Jewels make perfect sense: "We are dope as f**k. I will say that."

NME

PHOTOS: MATT SALACUSE, SACCENT, GETTY IMAGES, ALAMY, REX FEATURES

Diamond geezers

Run The Jewels talk us through the guests on 'RTJ3'

DANNY BROWN
Features on: *'Hey Kids (Bumaye)'*
El-P: "He's the nastiest motherf**ker on the planet. I consider him a friend. He's incredible. He's the Rick James of hip-hop."

TUNDE ADEBIMPE
(from TV On The Radio)
Features on: *'Thieves! (Screamed The Ghost)'*
El-P: "He was awaiting the birth of his daughter any day. He has such a unique, soulful and distinctive voice."

TRINA
Features on: *'Panther Like A Panther'*
Killer Mike: "She's a goddess. Beside her dope rap voice, she's so beautiful that when I'm in a room with her I'm a little bit quiet."

ZACK DE LA ROCHA
Features on: *'Kill Your Masters'*
El-P: "I could tell I'd dangled a piece of meat in front of his face. It was obvious he'd destroy it. He's an unofficial member of RTJ."

NADYA TOLOKONNIKOVA
(from Pussy Riot)
Features on: *'Kill Your Masters'*
El-P: "I loved the idea of the last word [on 'RTJ3'] being from a strong, rebellious woman."

THE NORTH FACE

FAMILY GUY

South London rapper Loyle Carner has woven music by his late stepfather into his debut album – and it might just have you in tears, says Leonie Cooper

'SUN OF JEAN', THE final track on Loyle Carner's stunning debut album, features the 22-year-old MC's mum reading a poem about her son ("*He was and is a complete joy / The world is his, that scribble of a boy*") over a heartstring-tugging piano sample played by his late stepfather. A stirring expression of a mother's love and moving tribute to his dad, it might just have you weeping like a baby. That, I tell Loyle, in a pub in London's Maida Vale, is what happened to me. "I'll tell my mum that," he says. "She'll just say, 'I'm so sorry!'"

It's just one of many gorgeous, emotive moments that make up 'Yesterday's Gone', itself named after a track on a secret album the rapper's dad recorded before his death in 2014. "He recorded it in the basement; he was a brilliant musician but it never happened for him," explains Ben Coyle-Larner – who gets his stage name from his habit of mixing up his surname due to dyslexia ("I used to get taken the p**s out of me for it a lot, so I flipped it on its head"). After his mum found the secret album, Carner put it on his laptop but couldn't bring himself to listen to it until months later. When he finally did, he was on the lookout for fatherly pearls of wisdom and quickly found them in the song 'Yesterday's Gone'.

"It was almost like he was talking to me now, after everything that happened. Him going, 'Pick yourself up and get on with it.'" The original song now appears as a secret track on Carner's own album, but with one change – his mum singing along with the track. "I got to immortalise my mum and my dad together," says Carner with a smile. "It was the idea of bringing them back together one last time."

Carner still lives with his mum and younger brother in Croydon, having moved there from West Norwood so that, as a 14-year-old, he could study at the BRIT School, which Amy Winehouse, Adele and his buddy King Krule all attended. Although he was unaware of his dad's creative ambitions, when he was growing up there was always something excellent on the stereo, be it Bob Dylan and Patti Smith or David Bowie and Leonard Cohen. "It was all storytelling – anyone who told a story," explains Carner of the soundtrack to his youth. "So when I started listening to hip-hop I was looking for the same thing, something that was real and tangible."

Carner's early rap icons were Nas and Common, artists who told moving, sometimes troubled tales based on their own personal experience. Add their inspiration to his childhood fondness for writing poetry and the seeds were sewn for a future career as an MC.

"I used to struggle with English at school but I found poetry really interesting," he explains. "I think it's because I was dyslexic. Mistakes weren't mistakes in poetry. It wasn't about form or structure or spelling, it was just about words, and I understood words – I just couldn't spell them or put them in the right place."

When, at the age of seven, his best friend died, he wrote a poem to help him work through his feelings. Although he was asked to perform it in assembly, he wasn't writing for anyone else but himself. "Because my poetry was so personal I used to be embarrassed by it, but I'd enjoy reciting it to myself in the shower, in the bath… It was mine."

Like all of his mates, in his early teens Carner started rapping. Unlike his friends, he stuck with it. Like he'd done with his poetry, he was pouring his emotions into music. "When I first started I felt it could be a hindrance. I used to write songs and think, 'I can't use this,' because it was too open." His mum and his collaborator, beatmaker Rebel Kleff, convinced him otherwise and soon he was making a stand against "the weird social expectations of being a young man and having to say everything's OK when it's not OK".

As such, none of his tunes are what you'd call uplifting; 'Mrs C' is about his friend's mum being diagnosed with cancer; the epic 'The Isle Of Arran' is about his frustration at not having a male role model (his biological father is estranged); and the soulful 'Damselfly' is about losing the ability to form meaningful relationships. "I've never been able to write positive tunes," he says. "I guess when I'm happy I don't want to write – I want enjoy being happy."

Now, his emotional openness resonates deeply with the fans he speaks to after each and every show at his merch table. "It's a beautiful thing," says Loyle. "People come up to me and open up like we've been friends for years. Some people have been through tough times and it's difficult, but it reminds you that you're not alone." If it's emotional catharsis you're after, then Loyle Carner doesn't just understand – he gets it.

Loyle's subjects

Ben Coyle-Larner is a man of many talents

CHEF

When: Since his teens.
What he does: Last year he set up the ADHD Cooking School, which aims to help teens with behavioural difficulties via the medium of cooking. He says he cooks the best wings in London. Find out if he's telling the truth at London's Rough Trade East on January 20 as he serves up scran to everyone who's pre-ordered his album.

MUSICIAN

When: Um, right now.
What he does: Releasing his debut album 'Yesterday's Gone' on January 20. His UK tour starts February 3 at the Garage in Glasgow.

ACTOR

When: Before he began to focus on music full-time, he was studying acting at the prestigious Drama Centre London.
What he did: Had a small part in the 2008 film *10,000 BC*.

WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?

Obama has gone and the Trumpocalypse begins today. How worried should we be in the UK? Mark Beaumont runs four doomsday scenarios past the experts

NUCLEAR ARMAGEDDON

Donald Trump's tweets suggesting the US must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability are reason for concern according to Kingston Reif, director for disarmament and threat reduction policy at the Arms Control Association. Trump repeatedly asking a foreign policy expert why America couldn't use its nuclear weapons displays a reckless and deeply troubling attitude that could "accelerate global nuclear tensions" and indicates that "he might engage in dangerous nuclear brinkmanship in a crisis". Reif argues: "The fate of tens of millions depends on the good judgment and stability of a single person. The President, and the President alone, is the supreme authority to order the use of nuclear weapons. All of which makes Trump's erratic behaviour and loose talk on nuclear weapons deeply concerning."

CHANCE OF TRUMPAGGEDON:

HAM-FISTED ATTACKS ON ISIS RAMP UP TERRORISM IN THE WEST

Professor Inderjeet Parmar, an international politics academic at City University, sees potential problems with Trump's approach to the Middle East. Going back on the recent agreement to lift sanctions on Iran in return for them not developing their nuclear weapons programme could be "very, very destabilising" and if Trump's "secret plan" to defeat ISIS involves US troops on the ground in Syria, it could lead to "much greater conflict". "America will get embroiled in another Middle Eastern war, annoying the Muslim world," says Professor Parmar, and that could well mean more terrorist attacks on European targets.

CHANCE OF TRUMPAGGEDON:

TRUMP TWEETS HIS WAY TO WORLD WAR III

Many fear Trump's antagonistic Twitter persona will widdle on the well-made bed of international relations. Professor Parmar sees it more as post-truth "smoke and mirrors". "Trump plays at several different levels," he says. "His tweeting and his public rhetoric is often contrary to what he's doing at a quiet level. So he'll rail against Wall Street but he's appointed loads of people from Wall Street into his administration. It's part of this quite robust strategy that you renegotiate relationships and use all instruments available."

CHANCE OF TRUMPAGGEDON:

SLOW DEATH BY CLIMATE CHANGE

Trump's belief that climate change is a conspiracy theory the Chinese invented because they want all the world's vehicles running on kung po sauce (or something) is of great concern to environmental experts, as is his suggestion to pull the US out of the Paris agreement on global temperature. Dr Thomas Crowther, a Marie Curie Fellow at the Netherlands Institute For Ecology, insists "meeting the goals set at the Paris agreement is absolutely essential to minimise the magnitude of the effects and it would be disastrous if the US pulls out, not just because they're one of the biggest emitters, but because other countries might follow suit." Left unchecked, climate change might see Britain looking more like Westeros than we'd like. "If the melting ice caps slow the Gulf Stream, the UK will be plunged into Arctic-like temperatures," explains Dr Crowther. In the most economically derived regions, it will lead to massive-scale migration, starvation and war.

CHANCE OF TRUMPAGGEDON:

NME

PHOTO: PRESS ASSOCIATION

RADAR

MUSIC, FILM, TV & MORE – THIS WEEK'S ESSENTIAL NEW RELEASES

SYD

Best NEW tracks
And when to drop them

BEST FOR FEELING YOURSELF
SYD
All About Me
Odd Future/The Internet's Syd's first solo single is a super-sensual trap-inflected delight. More of this please, Syd.

BEST FOR DANCEFLOOR EMOTING
KIESZA
Dearly Beloved
The Canadian 'Hideaway' vocalist mixes 1980s soul and 1990s piano house in this heartfelt party banger.

BEST FOR DISCO GROOVING
MR TOPHAT FEAT. ROBYN
Right Time
This 10 minute-long disco odyssey features everyone's favourite Swedish pop sensation getting into the groove.

BEST FOR GETTING ZEN
MAGGIE ROGERS
Now That The Light Is Fading
Like early Bon Iver, this is all stunning DIY harmonies and gentle, pastoral folksiness.

BEST FOR COWGIRL BLUES
KAREN ELSON
Distant Shore
This taster from the supermodel's second album is full of country-rock elegance – like Dolly Parton in one of her more tender moments.

BEST FOR EVENINGS IN
LAURA MARLING
Wild Fire
A softly lit but beautifully burning tune that recalls songwriter Jackson Browne at his best.

BEST FOR GETTING ANGRY
SLEAFORD MODS
BHS
The duo's new album 'English Tapas' is out March 3. 'BHS' is a peek at its punk-rock street poetry via the tale of Philip Green's treatment of the failed chain's staff.

SLEAFORD MODS

BEST FOR AIR GUITARING
THE MENZINGERS
After The Party
The title track from the pop-punkers' upcoming album is a guitar smash that's wistful and banging.

BEST FOR MISTY-EYED MEMORIES
THE CHAINSMOKERS
Paris
Nostalgia-filled trop-house is the name of The Chainsmokers' game. 'Paris' remembers a romantic getaway.

BEST FOR PSYCHEDELIC SUNDAYS
TEMPLES
Strange Or Be Forgotten
Our very own Tame Impala, Temples do their synth thing with good vibes and excellent hair.

PHOTOS: JUSTIN BROWN, ROGER SERGANT

TEMPLES

FOR MORE NEW MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

MUSIC

An offer you can't refuse

The grime legend returns to reclaim the genre he invented

WILEY
Godfather
★★★★★
GRIME | SWAGGER | ONE-LINERS

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

JUST ONE OF THE laugh-out-loud lyrics on grime kingpin Wiley's booming, swaggering, long-awaited new album: "*I'm not a lager lout / But I'm still throwing bars about*". The whole album is stuffed with similarly brilliant gags and one-liners – including a joke about George Best, leading you to wonder just how long the east London rapper has been working on 'Godfather'.

His 11th studio album was originally intended for release in September, but was subject to several delays. At one point, Wiley threatened to call off the release entirely, tweeting that it was "pointless". Over the years he's carved out a reputation as one of the most unpredictable figures in grime, missing live dates and cancelling interviews, leaving dejected journalists clutching Dictaphones. When he turns up, though, Wiley really *turns up*, a fact that 'Godfather' attests to in dazzling fashion. With features from current genre dons Devlin, Jme, Frisco, Flowdan and, of course, Skepta, it feels like a celebration of all that grime achieved in 2016.

Opening track 'Birds N Bars' sets the tone with a shout-out to the all-conquering London crew BBK, before snaking synths weave their way through brittle beats and his deliriously confrontational flow. "*I can do it,*" he rallies, "*I don't need to try*". It's a statement of intent: Wiley has come to reclaim the genre that he helped to create, a case he makes most compellingly on the Devlin-featuring 'Holy Grime', a demented march through chanted vocals and battering rhymes such as "*For years I've been killing it, trust me / Swear down, I will never get rusty*''. The frantic pace lets up only on 'U Were Always, Pt 2', a slinky, heavy-hearted slow jam with guest spots from Skepta and Toronto MC Belly.

Wiley's 2008 pop crossover hit 'Wearing My Rolex' recently went Gold. He's claimed he conceded to the mainstream in a bid to provide for his daughter; that in different circumstances he'd have waited for grime's popularity to come back around and pay off. Well, he's managed to have his cake and eat it. And that's why they call him the Godfather.

Jordan Bassett

PHOTO: DEAN CHALKLEY

STRANGE BUT TRUE

In 2012 Wiley cut short a video shoot at a five-star hotel in Marbella. Why? So he could go and have a Wimpy in south London.

You Me At Six (L-R): Matt Barnes, Josh Franceschi, Max Helyer, Dan Flint and Chris Miller

More of the same

The promise of a heavier You Me At Six record doesn't quite deliver

YOU ME AT SIX

Night People

★★★☆☆

NICE POP ROCK SAFE

THERE'S A CASE for not tooting your own horn prematurely. You Me At Six singer Josh Franceschi publicly declared that this – their fifth studio album – would be a notable departure from their usual pop-rock shtick, as they're all huge metal fans and that's their big influence. And while nobody expects these Surrey lads to drop a record rivalling Slayer, that's a bold claim to make. So here's a heads-up: 'Night People' doesn't fully deliver on those promises.

Take 'Plus One', which is mildly brooding rather than malevolent – like a rabid Doberman giving you a tiny nip rather than a full-blown chomp – and slips away without twisting up your insides in the way that metal and hardcore does. That, you suspect, is the guile they're searching for. It's understandable they haven't found it yet, because they've been doing their thing for years without ever drastically changing their sound, presumably to avoid distressing a loyal fan base who adore Franceschi's gentle vocals. But when 'Heavy Soul' is Snow Patrol meets Mumford, it makes it hard to imagine a band like this *ever* getting much heavier.

That's not to say this album is without merit, though. What You Me At Six do, they do well, and 'Swear' and 'Night People' both have a heavier groove and garage-rock vibes, with a Stone Temple Pilots-style swagger that works for them. Penultimate track 'Give It Up', meanwhile, has Hozier-like soulfulness that's dark without needing corpse paint and blood-dripping pentagrams. Life's too short to be something you're not, but it's also too short to take baby steps. 'Night People' is a fine album, but it's no different to previous albums. It's time the band took a giant leap. **Anita Bhagwandas**

Best track

'NIGHT PEOPLE'

Title track and single 'Night People' is a hip-shaking house party anthem personified. Play it loud AF.

Frankly speaking

Powerful personal and political catharsis from former Gallows and Pure Love singer Frank Carter

FRANK CARTER & THE RATTLESNAKES
Modern Ruin
★★★★☆
ROCK ANGUISH TATTOOS

DESPITE LOOMING over the past decade of British hard rock in various different guises and consistently proving himself one f**k of a frontman, Frank Carter has remained something of a cult figure. His first crack of the whip came as vocalist of Watford hardcore heroes Gallows, who he parted ways with in 2011. Then it was onto the rather more family-friendly, pop-leaning Pure Love, a project with US guitarist Jim Carroll. Since 2015, he's been making a return to his more brutal roots, with the Rattlesnakes tearing up razor sharp riffs behind him, and his caustic, unflinching howl and doomy world view upfront and centre.

This, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes' second album, is an angry and sad but striking thing, all shimmering, serrated guitars and Carter's distinctive vocals imbuing everything with a vital urgency. If you want to shake off any lingering New Year's cobwebs – and get a rather gloomy insight into the tortured mind of Frank Carter – then 'Modern Ruin' is the way to do it. The full-throttle 'Vampires' gives one of many flashes into Carter's sorrowful psyche, as he admits: "*I feel like I'm breaking / Under the heaviest weight*." The maudlin but meditative 'Acid Veins' goes deeper still: "*I've got a skeleton inside me / Made from knives and chains*," while 'Thunder' takes proceedings from the personal to the political.

A passionate comment on the migrant crisis, it throws up some seriously intense imagery inspired by some of the most upsetting headlines of recent times: "*I see a baby lying face down in the tide / And I see thousands of souls begging for their f**king lives*." The sonics are just as powerful. 'Lullaby' chugs along like Black Sabbath by way of Dalston Junction, an updated take on the metal icons' stoner sound. 'Wild Flowers' is furiously propulsive, a heavy, heady and yes, tortured, love song – but it's not all rough and rowdy.

'Bluebelle' is just over a minute long, a fatalistic blues ballad, with Frank in crooner mode, sighing: "*The worst that can happen is you die,"* over lonesome, tremulous electric guitar.

Don't come to 'Modern Ruin' looking to be cheered up then, but if it's catharsis you're after, there's nothing more fitting. **Leonie Cooper**

STRANGE BUT TRUE

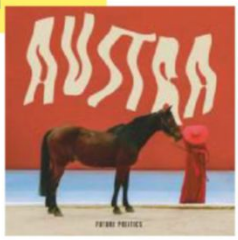
When he's not making music, Frank is a globally renowned tattoo artist and has worked out of famed London tattoo studios Frith Street Tattoo and Sang Bleu.

Katie Stelmanis

A welcome gift

An album to help you rebuild your faith in humanity

AUSTRA
Future Politics
★★★★☆
SYNTHPOP VISIONARY



IF YOU'RE STILL feeling drained and deadened by the traumas of 2016, perhaps it's time for a musical tonic. Like cold, clean water, Austra's 'Future Politics' washes clear the mental muck, leaving you feeling alive again.

Latvian-Canadian producer Katie Stelmanis's aim on her electropop outfit's third album is, she's said, "a commitment to replace the approaching dystopia". Its beats are suitably bracing; where Austra's 2011 debut 'Feel It Break' was minimal and cold wave-y, and 2013's 'Olympia' embraced a warmer, housier feel, 'Future Politics' contains their most purposeful music yet, sci-fi synths bolstered by futuristic dreams, gearing you up for the hard work of rebuilding your faith in humanity. *"Waking up got somewhere to go / I'm making sweat fall"*, 'We Were Alive' begins, Stelmanis's rich voice reaching out over dawn-soft synths, swelling strings and a crisp snare beat.

But the promise of 'Future Politics' is more than just today's hard work; on the glorious synthpop of 'Utopia', glistening like a factory crafting new tomorrows, it imagines a radical future beyond labour, tired structures and old assumptions: *"I can picture a place where everybody sees it too / It might be fiction but I see it ahead"*. Hope is hard, though, and 'I'm A Monster' faces the stultifying weight of despair, Stelmanis sorrowing, *"I don't feel nothing any more"* over darkly throbbing synths.

The title track's fat, womping space disco hammers out a way forward: *"I don't want to hear that it's all my fault / I'm looking for something to rise up above"*. The deep chillout of 'Beyond A Mortal' and the title of harp-laced instrumental 'Deep Thought' (the name of the computer built to answer the Ultimate Question in *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*), meanwhile, seem to point beyond our selves as we understand them, to a transhumanity in which technology might lift us beyond our weaknesses. Such visions are a welcome gift in a new year when resolution comes harder than ever. **Emily Mackay**

LIKE THIS? TRY THIS!

GRIMES
Geidi Primes
Before Claire Boucher broke through to the big time, in 2010 she released this delicious album themed around Frank Herbert's classic sci-fi novel *Dune*.

ZOLA JESUS
Stridulum II
Nika Roza Danilova's voice is just as rich and beautiful as Katie Stelmanis's on this 2010 album, and her goththronic sound is close to the glossy darkness of Austra's earlier albums.

PHOTO: BELLA HOWARD, RENATA RAKSHA

A force for chaos

Californian duo famed for toplessness, injuries and gyrating make surprisingly focused fifth album

FOXYGEN
Hang
★★★★☆
INDIE SUMPTUOUS ORCHESTRAL

BEFORE RELEASING their last album, 2014's sprawling 24-song exercise in sloppy rock theatre '…And Star Power', Foxygen keyboardist Jonathan Rado hadn't time for standard-length records. "We just didn't want to make an eight-song record; here's more songs," he told *DIY* magazine.

Well, almost three years later, just look what the Californian so-and-sos (completed by singer Sam France, famed for toplessness, injuries and demented Jagger-on-heat gyrating) have done. They've made an eight-song album.

But don't take this sumptuous fifth record – which marks Foxygen's first proper studio effort and features a 40-piece orchestra on every track alongside contributions from Flaming Lips multi-instrumentalist Steven Drozd and arrangements from Matthew E. White – as a step towards convention. 'Hang' may be crisp, clear and smooth, but Foxygen are still very much a force for chaos, the band nearly being derailed by drugs, fallouts and France's broken leg in 2013.

Like their four previous albums, 'Hang' is propelled by two principal forces – star-quality musicianship and the will to trespass beyond tradition. And, crucially, at a third of the size of its predecessor, it allows Rado and France – who wrote and produced every song – to fully focus. Rado's keys are particularly outstanding.

Opener 'Follow The Leader' is a real pop nugget that swings like Foxygen classics 'Shuggie' and 'How Can You Really'. Backing vocals, brass and a brilliant bassline coalesce under France's vocals, which lurch from growling to snotty to sugar-sweet.

Upbeat ode to utopia 'Avalon' makes sense of France telling music site Nothing But Hope And Passion that 'Hang' is Foxygen's "Disney record". Epic lead single 'America' supports that description further. Drums and strings could soundtrack a chase scene in *Peter Pan*, and the piano tinkles as if accompanying Belle dancing with the prince in *Beauty And The Beast*. France's yelping is freaky: "*Just another witch who comforts you when you're dying / America!*"

Elsewhere, the dramatic gun-referencing 'Mrs Adams' has him "*hanging from a rope*". But it's not all so hi-octane. 'On Lankershim' and 'Rise Up' deploy Harry Nilsson-style licks and unpredictable flashes of guitar to keep Foxygen from straying too far towards pantomime. And that's perhaps 'Hang''s biggest accomplishment – reeling Foxygen back in and refocusing them for a brilliant and unexpected return to form.
Ben Homewood

PHOTO: CARA ROBBINS

STRANGE AND TRUE

Foxygen have said the follow-up to 'Hang' will be "a hip-hop record called 'Boy's Life'" or a "total synth record" titled 'Nightmare Man'.

(From left:) Sam France and Jonathan Rado

FILM

Life after death

In 1963, Jackie Kennedy's husband was assassinated. This is her aftermath…

JACKIE

12 *Natalie Portman, Billy Crudup, Greta Gerwig*

★★★★★

BIOGRAPHICAL | DRAMA | JFK

IT WOULD BE EASY TO make a politely anodyne film about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, America's most glamorous First Lady. The wife of President John F. Kennedy was by her husband's side when he was assassinated on November 22, 1963, and retained the public's affection until her own death from cancer over 30 years later.

Yet this biographical drama from Chilean director Pablo Larraín takes a braver revisionist approach. Although *Jackie* is far from unsympathetic, it presents Kennedy as flawed, forceful and far less self-assured than her poised public image suggested during her lifetime. Larraín's film focuses on the week after JFK's death and begins with a grieving Jackie Kennedy (Natalie Portman) meeting *Life* magazine journalist Theodore H. White (*Watchmen*'s Billy Crudup) for an exclusive interview. Brittle but imperious, Portman's Kennedy calls the shots from the start. After she breaks down recounting the full bloody horror of watching her husband's skull being punctured by a bullet, she quickly regains composure and tells White: "Don't think for a second I'm going to let you publish that."

These tense exchanges give way to revealing but non-chronological insights into Jackie Kennedy's defining week. We see her breaking the tragic news to her children, defying security advisers to plan a lavish funeral for her husband, confessing some uncomfortable home truths to a priest (John Hurt), and even peeling off her blood-stained clothes alone in her White House bedroom many hours after the assassination. This scattershot approach works because it captures the gathering storm of conflicting emotions Kennedy is feeling after her husband's death.

Portman appears in almost every scene and the film's thrilling intimacy is intensified by Larraín's uncompromising close-ups and a brilliantly brutal score by Micachu & The Shapes' Mica Levi. Greta Gerwig and Richard E. Grant provide appealing support as Kennedy's closest White House confidantes, but it's Portman's tour-de-force performance that gives the film its real lifeblood. *Jackie* isn't just a convincing and riveting depiction of a 20th century icon; it's also a heart-rending portrait of a grieving woman trying to regain control when the life she knows is suddenly and cruelly taken away.

Nick Levine

FOR FANS OF

Natalie Portman as Jackie Kennedy

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES

Georgie

Defiant folk-pop from Mansfield

BANGING IN GOALS AS A highly touted football prodigy wasn't enough for the teenage Georgie, and well before she could buy a pint she was touring pubs playing acoustic sets. Now 22, she's supporting Blossoms and shaping up to unleash her blend of empowering British pop and old school soul.

Did growing up in The Midlands shape your early songwriting?
"Definitely. It's maybe seeing that sense of wanting to get out of it, or maybe the sense of seeing people you really love struggling within it. There's a real rawness to life in those mining towns, which is inspiring in a different sense for songwriting."

You did a lot of gigging in pubs as a teenager – what was that like?
"I was so young that some of them I had to sneak into to play. Once, I actually had a history exam the next morning and I failed it because I ended up staying and playing four sets that night."

Not only that, but you were banging in goals as a decent footballer...
"Yeah, my parents used to give me a pound for every goal I scored. But then I was scoring hat-tricks or sometimes eight goals and it went down to 50p, and then they said they couldn't reward me anymore because it was costing too much money."

Your first single 'Company Of Thieves' is a very defiant and self-assured song. Where did that influence come from?
"I think it *is* quite a defiant song, especially for women who've been in intimate relationships. Artists like Patti Smith, PJ Harvey and Janis Joplin were really inspiring for me as they also wrote those kinds of empowering lyrics."

You supported Blossoms on their UK tour in December. What did you learn from that experience?
"It was nice to see different feedback from different crowds. You get 30 minutes to really make an impression; it's an opportunity to convert them. Also, that it's really hard to be healthy on the road! You manage to get through a crate of beer every night somehow as well – it's like a magic trick."

WORDS: TOM SMITH. PHOTOS: PHIL SMITHIES/ GETTY IMAGES

Best track

COMPANY OF THIEVES
Georgie shakes off the time wasters with a confident dash of bold pop hooks and slinking guitars.

Strange but true

When recording in Virginia, US, last year for her debut single, she got what she called a ghostly "studio tan", as a result of spending too much time in the recording booth instead of frolicking in the sun.

Like this? Try this!

AMY WINEHOUSE
Back To Black
Honest, wickedly funny and heartbreaking all at the same time. Amy's blend of soul, blues and classic pop resulted in her masterpiece.

For fans of

"I failed a history exam because I ended up playing four sets in the pub the night before"

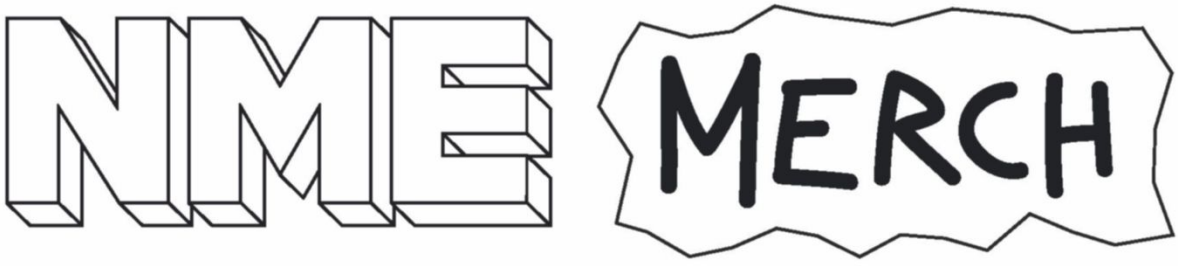
The details

FROM: Mansfield

BUY: 'Company Of Thieves' is out now

LIVE: London, The Islington (Feb 24), Nottingham, Bodega Social Club (Mar 30), Glasgow, Garage Attic Bar (Apr 1)

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER



TEES, HOODIES, MUGS & MORE

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live

THIS WEEK'S BEST TICKETS AND GIGS

Bloomin' brilliant

The VO5 NME Awards Tour is hitting the road – this year with the Greater Manchester trio of Blossoms, Cabbage and Rory Wynne

THE VO5 NME AWARDS TOUR 2017 kicks off on March 16 in Keele. Past tours have featured The Killers, Arctic Monkeys and Florence + The Machine, but this year's three acts all hail from Greater Manchester, and they're a brilliant bunch.

Synth-kissed headliners Blossoms supported The Stone Roses at their Etihad Stadium gigs last year, going on to ace the festival circuit in the summer and later achieving one of the highest-selling debuts of 2016 with their self-titled album in August. They also produced one of the finest tunes of the year with 'Charlemagne'.

Cabbage, meanwhile, are a raucous five-piece who started their band as a joke and have lyrics about w**king in quiches. They're supporting Manchester heroes The Courteeners at Old Trafford later this year, and they say playing live is "like a purge, driving round with a circus cult trying to anarchise people".

Then there's rising star Rory Wynne who, aged 17, will school you in indie perfection – just make sure you get there early.

BLOSSOMS

The biggest new band of 2016

MARCH

SOLD OUT ~~**Thu 16** University Ballroom, Keele~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Fri 17** Olympia, Liverpool~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Sat 18** Dome, Brighton~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Mon 20** Engine Shed, Lincoln~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Tue 21** Lemon Grove, Exeter~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Thu 23** Roundhouse, London~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Fri 24** O2 Academy, Bristol~~
SOLD OUT ~~**Sat 25** Tramshed, Cardiff~~
Mon 27 The Nick Rayns LCR UEA, Norwich
Wed 29 O2 Academy, Birmingham
SOLD OUT ~~**Thu 30** O2 Academy, Leeds~~
Fri 31 O2 Academy, Newcastle

ON SALE NOW

APRIL

Sat 1 O2 Academy, Glasgow

TICKETS: £19.25-£21.45

VO5 NME AWARDS TOUR 2017

Blossoms' Tom Ogden

PHOTO: ANDY HUGHES

JAGWAR MA

Trio of Tame Impala tour mates, Madchester vibes

MARCH
Fri 3 Library, Lancaster
Tue 14 Old Market, Hove
Wed 15 O2 Forum, London
Fri 17 Rescue Rooms, Nottingham
Sat 18 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Sun 19 Liquid Room, Edinburgh

TELL ME MORE: The Aussie group recently put out their second album 'Every Now And Then' – hear it come to woozy life here.
TICKETS: £14.85-£20.65

WILEY
The godfather of grime

FEBRUARY
Sun 5 University SU, Cardiff
Thu 9 The Roundhouse, London

TELL ME MORE: The grime don is touring his 11th album – 'The Godfather'.
TICKETS: £20.35-£22.65

THE NAKED AND FAMOUS
Kiwis who make euphoric synthpop

FEBRUARY
Sun 12 Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh
Mon 13 Academy, Manchester
Tue 14 O2 Forum

TELL ME MORE: Massive 2010 singles 'Young Blood' and 'Punching In A Dream' made their name – now the quintet are touring third album 'Simple Forms'.
TICKETS: £17-£25.30

ARIANA GRANDE
Pop star from Florida

MAY
Thu 18 Genting Arena, Birmingham
Mon 22 Arena, Manchester
Thu 25 & Fri 26 The O2, London

TELL ME MORE: Grande's excellent 2016 album 'Dangerous Woman' proved she's in it for the long haul. Consider this arena tour a victory lap.
TICKETS: £35-£55

ISAIAH RASHAD
25-year-old rapper from Tennessee

APRIL
Sun 23 KOKO, London

TELL ME MORE: Rashad's laid-back delivery has won him fans such as Kendrick Lamar, SZA and Odd Future's Syd tha Kyd.
TICKETS: £21.05

FOR MORE LIVE MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

THE WEEK'S BEST GIGS

ANTEROS

AMBER ARCADES
Fri 20 The Tin At The Coal Vaults, Coventry
Mon 23 Esquires, Bedford

ANTEROS
Thu 26 The Marrs Bar, Worcester

BEACH SLANG
Fri 20 Exchange, Bristol
Sat 21 The Haunt, Brighton
Tue 24 Mono, Glasgow
Wed 25 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Thu 26 Scala, London

BUGZY MALONE
Fri 20 Electric Brixton, London

C DUNCAN
Mon 23 Eden Court, Inverness
Tue 24 Sneaky Pete's, Edinburgh
Thu 26 Saint Luke's, Glasgow

CABBAGE
Thu 26 The Trades Club, Hebden Bridge

CASS MCCOMBS
Mon 23 The Deaf Institute, Manchester
Tue 24 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Wed 25 Trades Club, Hebden Bridge
Thu 26 The Haunt, Brighton

DECLAN MCKENNA
Mon 23 Waterfront, Norwich
Tue 24 The Cookie, Leicester
Wed 25 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Thu 26 Parr Street Studios, Liverpool

DREAM WIFE
Fri 20 The Buyers Club, Liverpool
Sat 21 Headrow House, Leeds
Mon 23 The Cluny, Newcastle
Tue 24 Night & Day Café, Manchester

ESTRONS
Sat 21 Esquires, Bedford

FLAMING LIPS
Sat 21 O2 Academy Brixton, London
Sun 22 Academy, Manchester

FUMAÇA PRETA
Fri 20 Constitutional Club, Lewes

GIRL BAND
Sat 21 Amolfini, Bristol
Sun 22 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Tue 24 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Thu 26 Summerhall, Edinburgh

GOAT GIRL
Wed 25 Broadcast, Glasgow

THE HOTELIER
Fri 20 The Wardrobe, Leeds
Sat 21 Stereo, Glasgow
Mon 23 Gorilla, Manchester
Tue 24 The Rainbow Complex, Birmingham
Wed 25 The Dome, London
Thu 26 Thekla, Bristol

THE HUNNA
Fri 20 Rock City, Nottingham
Sat 21 O2 Academy, Leicester
Mon 23 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Tue 24 SWX, Bristol
Wed 25 O2 Academy, Oxford
Thu 26 O2 Shepherds Bush Empire, London

BEACH SLANG

MARGO PRICE
Fri 20 The Bullingdon, Oxford
Sat 21 Leaf On Bold Street, Liverpool
Tue 24 Oran Mor, Glasgow
Wed 25 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds

MARTHA
Sat 21 The Cluny, Newcastle

MIKE SKINNER
Sat 21 The Liquid Rooms, Edinburgh

NOVA TWINS
Tue 24 The Monarch, London

PAIGEY CAKEY
Tue 24 Band On The Wall, Manchester

THE PRETTY RECKLESS
Fri 20 O2 Institute, Birmingham
Sat 21 O2 Forum, London
Mon 23 O2 ABC, Glasgow
Tue 24 O2 Ritz, Manchester

FOR MORE LIVE MUSIC, GO TO NME.COM

THE PROPER ORNAMENTS
Sun 22 Brudenell Social Club, Leeds
Mon 23 Mono, Glasgow
Tue 24 Hare & Hounds, Birmingham
Wed 25 The Joker, Brighton
Thu 26 Moth Club, London

RAE SREMMURD
Fri 20 O2 Ritz, Manchester
Sat 21 O2 Academy, Bristol

TOY
Fri 20 Clwb Ifor Bach, Cardiff

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB
Tue 24 O2 Academy, Birmingham
Wed 25 Corn Exchange, Cambridge

YASIIN BEY
Thu 26 O2 Forum, London

YOU ME AT SIX
Sun 22 Rose Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames

PHOTOS: REX FEATURES, GETTY IMAGES

Glass Animals

THURS 9 MARCH
EDINBURGH LIQUID ROOM
FRI 10 MARCH
BIRMINGHAM O2 INSTITUTE
SAT 11 MARCH
LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY
MON 13 MARCH
CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION
WED 15 MARCH
BRISTOL O2 ACADEMY
THURS 16 MARCH
LONDON O2 ACADEMY BRIXTON
FRI 17 MARCH
NORWICH THE WATERFRONT
SAT 18 MARCH
MANCHESTER ALBERT HALL

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Soundtrack of my life

Tom Daley

Diver, Olympian, all-round lovely chap

THE FIRST SONG I REMEMBER HEARING

THE EAGLES

Peaceful Easy Feeling

"My dad always used to listen to it. Someone my age was never going to know that song unless their dad played it! He used to play a lot of Elvis as well."

THE SONG I DO AT KARAOKE

S CLUB 7

Reach

"I used to do karaoke when I was younger as my dad thought it would be good for me to be able to stand on stage and not get too nervous because I was diving in front of lots of people. I used to love it. I also sang at my auntie's wedding while dressed as Elvis."

THE SONG THAT REMINDS ME OF THE OLYMPICS

AVICII

Levels

"It was on my playlist for London 2012 and whenever I hear it, it always takes me back to that moment. I'm a big Avicii fan."

THE FIRST GIG I WENT TO

KANYE WEST

Plymouth Pavilions

"Can you imagine Kanye in Plymouth? I don't go to very many concerts, but the ones I've been to have been pretty good; Kanye, Beyoncé… I remember standing at the back of Kanye's show and feeling really awkward because everyone was dancing and I was too embarrassed. I didn't know what to do – it was all so overwhelming. I was young, about 13."

GO TO NME.COM FOR MORE SOUNDTRACKS

THE SONG I CAN NO LONGER LISTEN TO

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

Can't Stop The Feeling!

"I heard it so much that I just went: 'OK, that is enough.' I really like his music, but when you hear something too much it gets in your head and you can't get it out."

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME DANCE

LOS DEL RIO

Macarena

"If I'm at a wedding and 'Macarena' comes on – or 'Cha Cha Slide' – I'm up and out there. When I was younger, as part of my diving training, I did salsa dancing classes, so I can salsa dance. It was just a little bit of fun and it helped with my hip mobility and rhythm."

THE SONG I WANT PLAYED AT MY FUNERAL

ADELE

Hello

"Maybe *'Hello… from the other side'*, that could be quite funny!"

THE FIRST ALBUM I BOUGHT

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Now That's What I Call Music 57

"It had Britney Spears' 'Toxic' on it. I was about 11, I think, and I got it from HMV. There was also some S Club on there, and some Justin Timberlake and Christina Aguilera. It had a bit of everything on there."

***Tom's Daily Plan* is out now, published by HQ, HarperCollins**

LAST WORD

The wisdom of the *NME* archives

THIS WEEK

PAUL WELLER

The Jam

January 20, 1980

"In the US, we're just another good rock band from England to them. We want to be more than that."

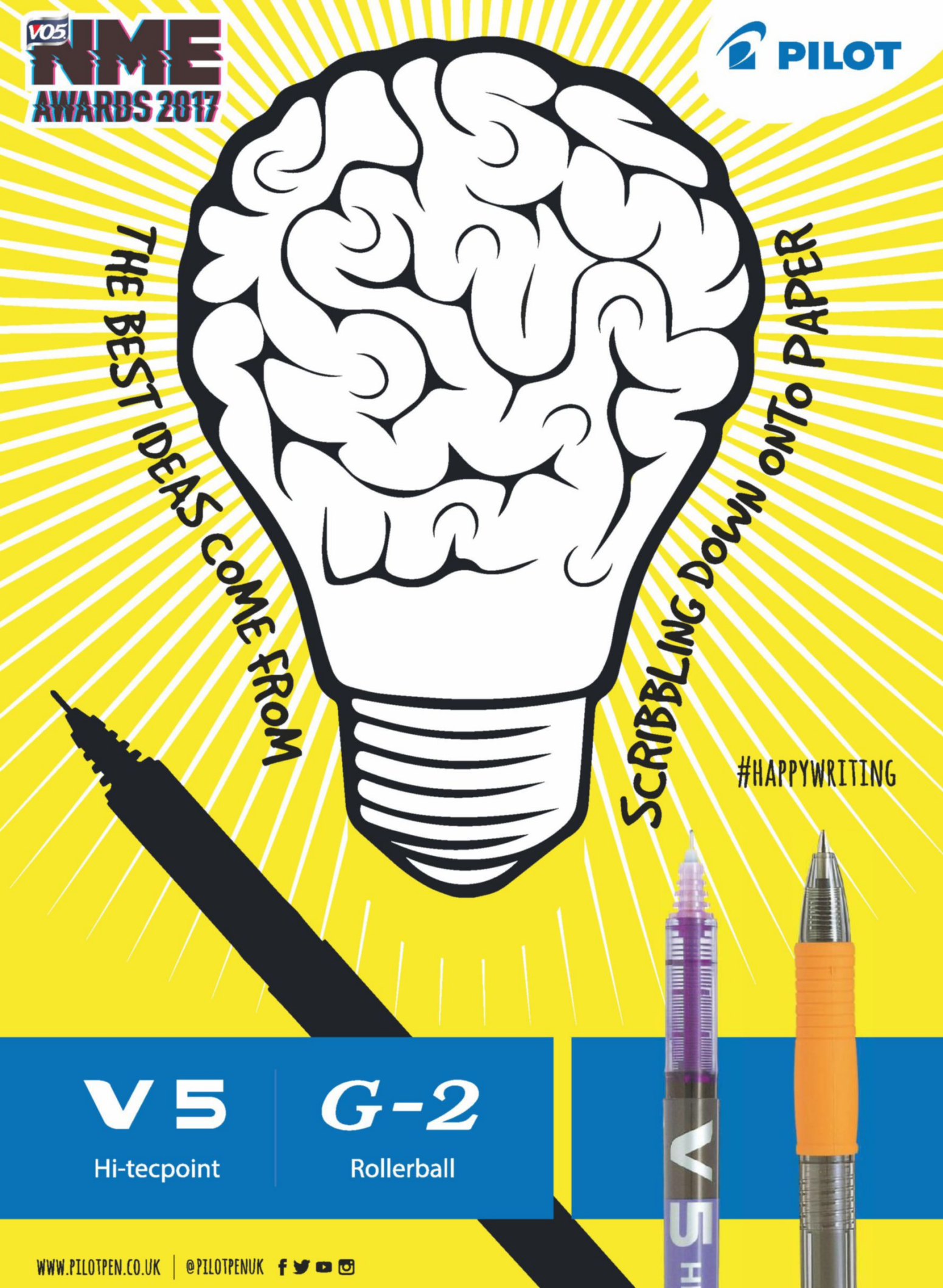
INTERVIEW: LEONIE COOPER. PHOTOS: DAN JONES, GETTY IMAGES, REX FEATURES

VO5 NME AWARDS 2017

PILOT

THE BEST IDEAS COME FROM SCRIBBLING DOWN ONTO PAPER

#HAPPYWRITING



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G-2 Rollerball

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